United Nations A/58/541–S/2003/1049

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 October 2003

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 117 (a) and (b)
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 October 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 (a) and (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 October 2003 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations and circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly (A/58/429-S/2003/982), and to bring to your attention the following pertinent facts concerning the matter.

The slanderous and politically motivated false accusations contained in the above-mentioned letter constitute yet another attempt on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to cast a shadow on the functioning democracy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The reality is that the TRNC has an exemplary record with regard to its pluralistic democracy and fully functional parliamentary system. Free local and general elections are conducted regularly every five years based on universal suffrage. As a matter of fact, the next general elections are to be held in December 2003. All shades of opinion across the political spectrum are represented in the TRNC through political parties, currently numbering more than ten, five of which are being represented in the Parliament. The fact that each and every political party can propagate freely its policies through meetings and affiliated mass media organizations, including the newspaper *Afrika*, provides clear testimony to the nature and quality of our democracy. The multiplicity of daily newspapers, private radios and televisions also propagate freely all political thought and opinion, subject only to the laws of defamation and libel, as in any other country.

Freedom of the press and freedom of expression, speech and assembly are being enjoyed to the full by the people of the TRNC, which upholds the rule of law, and such rights are enshrined in and protected by the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Much to the dislike of the Greek Cypriot representative, these facts are attested to in the annual human rights reports of the United States Department of State, including the most recent one, released on 31 March 2003.

The Greek Cypriot representative's false pretence to be the guardian of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots does not sit well. It should be recalled that with regard to the issue of human rights, the Greek Cypriot administration and its representatives are in no position to occupy any seat other than the guilty one, in view of its past record. The plight of the Turkish Cypriot people in the face of Greek Cypriot violence between the years 1963 and 1974 could not be better portrayed than by the passage included in the memoirs of George W. Ball, the then Under-Secretary of State. In a telegram to the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, he wrote:

> "The Government of Cyprus (Greek Cypriot Administration) are committed to a strategy which, after our discussion of the last two days, I think even they should believe is silly, of trying to neutralize Turkey by a Security Council resolution condemning aggression and guaranteeing territorial integrity. In this manner, they hope to eliminate the one defence of the Turkish Cypriot population, so that 'Government of Cyprus' can proceed happily with systematic genocide, without outside interference" (*The Past Has Another Pattern*, New York, 1982, p. 345).

In a similar vein, the then United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant, in his report to the Security Council dated 10 September 1964, stated, "the economic

restrictions being imposed against the Turkish communities in Cyprus ... in some instances have been so severe as to amount to a veritable siege" (S/5950, para. 222).

The Greek Cypriot representative, instead of trying to create confusion around non-issues, would better serve the international community by trying to explain his side's totally negative attitude and actions towards the steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side aimed at enhancing understanding and mutual confidence between the two peoples. It would be recalled that following the outright refusal of the Greek Cypriot side of our confidence-building measures package of 2 April 2003, the Turkish Cypriot side has decided to proceed unilaterally with some of the measures contained in the package, among which was the facilitation of free movement of peoples between the two sides. Notwithstanding the fact that both peoples in Cyprus reacted positively to the bold steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side, the Greek Cypriot administration remains steadfast in its effort to undermine and block the implementation of the measures with its anachronistic policies and its official statements made on a regular basis denouncing the measures. In this context, the Greek Cypriot authorities continue to discourage both Greek Cypriots and tourists from crossing over to the north, do not allow tourists to stay overnight in the TRNC and threaten the Greek Cypriots and others who choose to stay overnight with legal action, including fines and imprisonment. People who buy consumer goods from Turkish Cypriot shops in the TRNC are faced with difficulties on their way back to southern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot press reports confirm that such goods continue to be confiscated by the Greek Cypriot police in spite of reactions from the public. A case in point is the deportation by the Greek Cypriot authorities of a tourist group composed of 50 or so third-party nationals from Larnaka Airport in southern Cyprus on 16 October 2003, on the grounds that they were planning to visit the north as well during their stay on the island. These are the real issues and concrete behaviour of the Greek Cypriot party which have to be addressed by all concerned.

On the other hand, it is true that the Turkish Cypriot people are willing and ready for a political solution in Cyprus as well as European Union membership, subject to respect for the law which provides that Cyprus cannot enter any union unless Turkey and Greece are both members. It is also true that the Turkish Cypriot people are also determined to make sure that their State, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, is not dismantled by any means and to continue protecting their inherent rights and interests at all costs instead of yielding to Greek Cypriot aspirations of bringing Cyprus under their domination.

It is saddening to observe the Greek Cypriot side in its old familiar guise. The failure of the Greek Cypriot leadership to reciprocate our each and every initiative in any direction has demonstrated beyond doubt that the professed political will of the Greek Cypriot party for a solution is nothing more than a political tactic aimed at misleading and deceiving the international community.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 (a) and (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus